

## Moose Lake News by Jim Onarheim

Every Fire Department including the Round Lake Fire Department must have several Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units on their fire trucks. These units are worn by the firefighter when her/she enters a hazardous environment. This could be within a smoke-filled building or even near a burning automobile. Anytime there is a toxic environment around us, a firefighter must protect him/herself from the carbon monoxide gas or other life threatening chemicals that are given off by the fire.

The SCBA's have a regulator airtight face mask and a high-pressure bottle which is worn on the firefighters back. This bottle contains compressed air, or the same air that we breath every day. These units are awfully expensive and can cost up to \$3000 each if bought new.

Jack Brown owner of Louie's Landing was a member of the Brooklyn Wisconsin Fire Department for several years before moving to Moose Lake. Jack still stays in contact with his old department in Brooklyn WI. A few months ago, the Fire Chief from Brooklyn told Jack that they were going to replace 10 of their air packs with new units. They wanted their old air packs to go to a good home, so they offered them to Jack for an unheard-of price of \$30 a unit. These units will perhaps have to be refurbished by the manufacture but what a savings for the Round Lake Fire Dept. We will have more of this within the weeks to come.

The Moose Lake area ladies are back playing their favorite game of cards, Pinochle. The second and fourth Thursday of every month, Moose Lake area residents get together to play Pinochle at Louie's. Occasionally there are a few men that have played in the past. Most of the time it is like a lady's afternoon out, even though everyone is welcome.

Last Thursday was the first afternoon of Pinochle for this summer. They only had 4 ladies playing cards at Louie's. Everyone had a good lunch and then got into some serious card playing. Connie Miller won first place, Audrey Pearson took second, Carolyn Viertal ended up taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Margie McCormick got the boobie prize or took last place.

If anyone is interested in playing pinochle with them, they play on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month at Louie's Landing. The next pinochle date is Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at Louie's. Anyone interested, please give Margie McCormick a call at 715-462-9414 or e-mail her at [danmarmc2@gmail.com](mailto:danmarmc2@gmail.com). Marge hopes to see some new faces next week.

Last Sunday evening a good friend of mine and co-worker with the Sawyer County Ambulance Rob Sparhawk & I went out to see if the bluegills were done spawning or not. Rob was on Ghost Lake about 10 days ago when he found hundreds of fish in the shallows and highly active. He caught some beautiful large crappies and big bluegills in a shallow bay. We thought we would give it one more last try. Normally about the middle of June these fish are done spawning and have moved to deeper water.

I have never fished Ghost Lake so I thought it would be a good experience to check out another lake beside Moose or the Chippewa Flowage. We arrived at the Forest Rd 175 boat landing at 5:30 PM. As some of you may know Ghost Lake is a shallow lake so I took my time moving across the water. The is also a 10 MPH speed limit on the lake. It is one of the lakes that is considered the Quite Lakes.

Rob and I went to the same place where Rob caught his fish 10 days prior. We worked a large area in about 2 to 3 feet of water. A lot of weed growth had developed so it was challenging to fish with bobbers and a # 8 hook. We were using worms, part of a nightcrawler or Berkley power bait / fish fry. We tried many different locations on the lake at different depths, but nothing seemed to work. We did not fish deep but were working the shorelines around dead fallen trees. We decided that after two hours, these fish are done with the spawn and have moved to their summer locations.

We did catch some smaller fish but nothing to brag about. We went for a ride around the lake to check out the scenery and at about 8 PM called it a night. We headed back to the landing where we loaded my boat back on my trailer. We still had some daylight left so I suggested to Rob that we should go look for some elk. Rob has a business called Sparhawk Wildlife Tours where he takes guests out touring the area for wildlife.

Rob is truly knowledgeable when it comes to the elk herds in Wisconsin. He spends over half of his time in the woods studying the elk herd. He has taken hundreds of photos of elk. Just the other day he came with 20 feet of a cow elk. He told me he was almost close enough to pet her. I saw the photo he was close. Rob says, "they trust me because I'm in the woods with them so often."

We drove around for about 45 minutes but only saw about 11 deer a black Jack Rabbit but no elk. In all it was a very enjoyable time. I learned a lot from Rob. I hope he learned something from me about fishing.

Birthday greeting this week go out to Bill Nielsen on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Marilyn Sanders & Carly Toder both on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June. Happy birthday to all. Anniversary wishes are extended to Bob and Sharon Bratrud on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Gary and Cyndie New on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Happy Anniversary to both couples.

Well that is all we have for this week. Please keep the news coming my way. I cannot do it without your information and help. Please give me a call at 715-462-4448 or send any information to me by e-mail at [jonarheim@centurytel.net](mailto:jonarheim@centurytel.net) so I can include it in the column. Have a great week enjoy our beautiful weather. Stay safe!